Tie between ISRO and private players

1074. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "ISRO wants to pass on its know-how to private players" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 15th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the ISRO has assessed its impact on Defence and missile projects under development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since its inception, ISRO has been striving to involve the Indian Industries in its space programme. With the substantial increase in the scope of the space programme, both in terms of the number of launch vehicles and satellites being developed and launched by ISRO, the efforts to involve the industry is receiving further fillip. The ISRO efforts are now aimed at making the industries graduate from supplying parts and components to supplying major systems required for ISRO's satellites and launch vehicles.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Satellite for Literacy

1075. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has started developing an exclusive satellite for use in the domains of literacy, education, training and other related issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations were made with the Human Resource Development Ministry in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ISRO has planned to develop an exclusive satellite called EDUSAT for promotion of education in the country. The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 85.00 Crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A detailed discussion was held with Ministry of Human Resource Development in which representatives of Higher Education, Secondary Education and Primary Education participated.

Completion of Projects

1076. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a plan for timely completion of the projects in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects, Ministry-wise, involving an investment of Rupees twenty crores or more which are pending at present; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control cost overrun of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the 543 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, which are being monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 413 projects are scheduled for completion during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) Ministry-wise details of the monitored projects are available in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the period ending September 2002, placed in the Libraries of both the Houses of the Parliament.

(d) The steps taken to ensure control over cost overrun in projects include:

(i) Adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) indepth review of projects by the Government on monthly/ quarterly basis;

(iv) setting up of Empowered Committees in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(v) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(vi) appointment of a nodal officer for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.